In Recital

Amy Tucker, violoncello

assisted by

Roger Admiral, piano

Friday, September 24, 1999 at 5:00 pm

Sonata No.2 in F Major for Cello and Piano, Op.99 (1886) — Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

1. Allegro vivace
2. Adagio affettuoso
3. Allegro passionato
4. Allegro molto

Intermission

Cello Concerto in E Minor, Op.85 (1919) — Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

1. Adagio - Moderato
2. Lento - Allegro molto
3. Adagio
4. Allegro - Moderato

Program Notes

Johannes Brahms was born in Hamburg, 7 May 1833 and spent most of his early years in Germany, later moving to Vienna where he died on April 3, 1897. Known for his virtuosic skill at the piano and composition, he contributed a large output of both solo piano, orchestral and chamber music. He also contributed works for violin and cello. Works for the cello include the second sonata in F (Op. 99) and sonata in E minor Op.38, composed in 1862. With consideration to his style, Brahms is viewed essentially as a romantic composer although he adhered to many classical elements (such as clarity of form, precision of phrasing). The F major cello sonata is certainly indicative of this, displaying a balance between positive exclamation and energy, neatness of form and clarity of phrasing. But the harmonies are quite rich and romantic, the texture is certainly thick and the dialogue between the two instruments is remarkably complex and intense. This sonata was written for cellist Robert Hausmann and first performed in November 1886 with Brahms playing piano.

Edward Elgar (1857-1934) stands at the forefront of leading English composers over the last two hundred years. His works are clearly romantic in style and include a large range of compositions (chamber, vocal, solo instrumental, orchestra etc). The Cello Concerto in E minor, Op.85 has infact become popular in the repertory in recent years for cello. This four movement work is a solemn and reflective work, illustrating the despair and hopelessness in which this composer felt after the first world war. Described by Elgar as a "man's attitude to life", this concerto was first played by english cellist Felix Salmond with the London Symphony Orchestra. The conductor was Sir Albert Coates and was the opening piece at the first concert of the post war season (Oct 27, 1919 at Queen's Hall).

Amy Tucker, cello

Amy Tucker was born on the 13th of June, 1977 and grew up in Brisbane Australia. Her music studies began at the age of 6 with piano at the Yamaha music school. At the age of 8 she decided to pursue the cello as her main instrument. Amy actively took part in the music program at high school and was Music Captain in her senior year at Brisbane High School for Girls (Somerville House). She was also especially active in their chamber music program, winner of silver medal at the International Music Festival held at Sydney Opera House (1992) and first place in her String Quartet at the Australian Academy of Music (Queensland division, 1994). Her teachers in Brisbane include the Principal Cellist of Q.P.O, Matthew Farrell and Music Professors Richard Dedecius and Gwyn Roberts. At the age of 13, Amy became a member of the Queensland Youth Orchestra and remained with this organisation for 6 years. In 1996/97 she then toured with this orchestra to South Korea and Japan under the direction of Dr John Curro AM OBE. In 1996/97 she began her studies in the Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Queensland and received her A.Mus.A diploma (Associate in Music Australia). She has participated in various masterclasses with notable musicians such as Janis Laurs, David Lale, David Pereira, Jan Sedivka, Janos Starker and the Australian String Quartet. In the summer of 97/98 she participated in the Mozart in the Mountains Festival at Mt. Buller (Melbourne, Australia) where she learnt with Tanya Prochazka. In January 1999 she transfered to the University of Alberta where she is now in her fourth year of the B.Mus performance program.

<program notes written by Amy Tucker>

Convocation Hall, Arts Building

Department of Music
University of Alberta